



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety
Programs Division

Task Forces

Fact Sheet

Multi-jurisdictional Task Forces

Federal Byrne funding has been used to support Multi-jurisdictional Task Forces across the Commonwealth. Participating agencies coordinate efforts, share resources and exchange information, disrupting cross-jurisdictional crimes such as the flow of illicit drugs.

Currently, local Massachusetts police departments participate in multi-jurisdictional task forces. Many task forces also include representatives from the FBI, DEA, State Police, Sheriffs, District Attorneys Offices, housing police, and other law enforcement agencies.



Purpose

The Byrne Multi-jurisdictional Counter Crime Task Force (Task Force) Program promotes law enforcement and prosecutorial participation in coordinated multi-jurisdictional investigations involving local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Task forces target criminal activities such as drugs, gangs, illegal firearms, and organized crime.

Coordination of investigative and enforcement efforts is essential to the control of drugs, gangs, illegal firearms, and organized crime. The goal of the Task Force program is to promote this coordination, through the identification, arrest, and prosecution of persons engaged in violent and drug-related crime in a collaborative and cost-effective manner. In addition, this collaborative regional enforcement capability enhances the implementation of the Community Policing philosophy at the local level.

Law enforcement agencies are challenged to conduct an empirical assessment of the scope and nature of violent and drug-related crime in the target area and utilize this data to develop a comprehensive strategy tailored to address the particular needs of that region. Byrne funding is then utilized to defray the cost of participation of local and state police personnel in task force efforts to enhance prosecutorial preparation, acquire equipment and technology intended to support investigative efforts.